

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

10. (Currently Amended) [Apparatus] A system for [processing] cutting and shaping substantially rectangular shaped flexible tread strips salvaged from tire carcasses having tire tread surface and opposed inner casing surfaces and comprising two shorter ends and two longer sides, thereby to obtain narrower patterned strips of precise dimension and shape, said system comprising in combination: power actuated strip feeder means for grasping one shorter end of the tread strips and passing [them] the tire tread strips through a linear transit path, said strip feeder means further comprising two rotating rollers being biased together to squeeze the opposed tire tread and inner casing surfaces of the tire tread strips, and rotating strip shaping blade means carried by the biased together rollers and operable along the transit path [operable] during transit of the strips through said linear transit path [to remove] for removing tire tread strip edge portions along the two longer sides thereby to produce a said narrower rectangular shaped tire tread strip between said two shorter ends.

11.(Currently Amended) The [apparatus] system of Claim 10 wherein the strip shaping means [further] comprises further means for providing tread strips of uniform width from said rectangular shaped tread strips [with] comprising indentation means operable at designated spacings near opposite edges of raw input tread strips as the strips pass though the transit path for indenting edges between said two shorter ends and producing longitudinal strip edges with relaxed tension thereby encouraging the narrower strip to lie flat.

12. (Currently Amended) [Apparatus] The system defined in Claim 10 wherein the strip shaping means further comprises two sequential shaping devices for shaping the tread strips in different ways at two sequential stations along the strip transit path.

14.(Currently Amended) [Apparatus as] The system defined in Claim 10 wherein the shaping means further comprises indentation means for introducing a set of longitudinally spaced indentation patterns extending along the longer sides of the tread strips.

15.(Currently Amended) The system [apparatus] of Claim 14 wherein said tread strips [have a] having a tread surface and a surface opposite to the tread surface [and] further comprise means for indenting [wherein said indentation patterns comprise indentations in] the surface of the tread strip opposite to the tread.

18.(Currently Amended) [Apparatus] The system defined in Claim 10 wherein the shaping means further comprises means for removing tread surface from the tread strip to establish tread strips of uniform thickness.

SUMMARY AND PETITION FOR ALLOWANCE

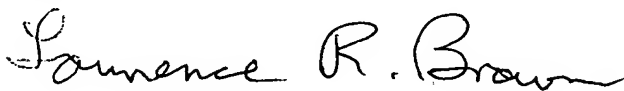
Having presented the amended Claim 10 to more positively claim the structure of the cutting apparatus as the Examiner suggests and overcome all other rejection grounds, Claims 10 and 12 are now allowably presented.

There is no art of record providing a system for processing flexible tire tread strips to produce narrower strips as defined in the rejected claims 10 and 12. Accordingly allowance of Claims 10 and 12 is respectfully solicited.

Applicant's position is that the withdrawn claims 11, 14, 15 and 18 all dependent upon allowable Claim 10 were prematurely withdrawn before parent Claim 10 was fully processed and are now properly retained as allowable dependent claims further restricting the parent Claim 10.

Accordingly it is respectfully solicited that Claims 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 18 be allowed.

Respectfully presented, June 8, 2004.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurence R. Brown".

Laurence R. Brown, Counsel for Applicant

Enc.

\$385.00 fee under 1.17(r)